**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

**Claim 1 (currently amended):** An image recording and reproducing apparatus for recording and reproducing a multiple picture signal obtained by multiplexing picture signals from a plurality of cameras via a frame switcher such that said multiple picture signal is comprised of a series of frames alternating between said plurality of cameras, said image recording and reproducing apparatus having a skip-reproduction feature for alternating skipping of n frames of said multiple picture signal and continuous reproduction of m frames of said multiple picture signal wherein n is a positive integer, and m is a positive integer related to a frame switching pattern.

**Claim 2 (previously presented):** The image recording and reproducing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said number of frames to be skipped is changed during skip reproduction.

**Claim 3 (original):** The image recording and reproducing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said number of frames

are changed to (n-d) ($2 \leq d < n$, d is a positive integer) in case said number of frames is decreased.

**Claim 4 (original):** The image recording and reproducing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein at least m frames are continuously reproduced at the end of a reconstructed image.

**Claim 5 (original):** The image recording and reproducing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein at least m frames are continuously reproduced at the beginning of a reproduction image.

**Claim 6 (previously presented):** The image recording and reproducing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said skip-reproduction feature is implemented by a process including a skip processing step for recognizing said frames and a reproduction processing step for performing reproduction and output of said frames.

**Claim 7. (previously presented):** The image recording and reproducing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said skip-reproduction feature is implemented by a skipping of n frames and a subsequent reproduction of m frames.

**Claim 8 (previously presented):** The image recording and reproducing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said skip-reproduction feature is implemented by a forward skipping of a series of (n+m) frames, a reverse skipping of m frames, and a reproduction of m frames.

**Claim 9 (previously presented):** The image recording and reproducing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said subsequent reproduction of a reconstructed image is performed on m frames up to a final frame of the reconstructed image when the difference between a frame just before start of said skipping and the final frame of the reconstructed image is equal to or greater than m frames and smaller than or equal to (n+m) frames.

**Claim 10 (previously presented):** The image recording and reproducing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said reproduction is performed up to a final frame of a reconstructed image when the difference between a frame of the reconstructed image just before start of said skipping and the final frame of the reconstructed image is smaller than m frames.

**Claim 11 (previously presented):** The image recording and reproducing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein reverse skipping of a maximum of m frames is performed within the number of skipped frames in the immediately preceding processing, when a final frame of an image is reached during said skipping.

**Claim 12 (original):** The image recording and reproducing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein adjustment is made to set the remaining number of frames to a multiple of (n+m) at start of said skip reproduction feature and when the number of frames n to be skipped is changed during skip reproduction.

**Claim 13 (previously presented):** The image recording and reproducing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein adjustment is made to set a remaining number of frames to a multiple of (n+m) at start of said skip reproduction feature and when the number of frames n to be skipped is changed during skip reproduction.

**Claim 14 (original):** The image recording and reproducing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein reproduction is suspended after continuous reproduction of said predetermined m frames when suspension of reproduction is instructed during execution of said skip reproduction feature.

**Claim 15 (currently amended):** An image reproducing apparatus for reproducing a multiple picture signal obtained by multiplexing picture signals from a plurality of cameras via a frame switcher such that said multiple picture signal is comprised of a series of frames alternating between said plurality of cameras, said image reproducing apparatus having a skip-reproduction feature for alternating skipping of n frames of said multiple picture signal and continuous reproduction of m frames of said multiple picture signal, wherein n is a positive integer, and m is a positive integer related to a frame switching pattern.

**Claim 16 (currently amended):** An image reproducing method for skip reproducing a multiple picture signal obtained by multiplexing picture signals from a plurality of cameras via a frame switcher such that said multiple picture signal is comprised of a series of frames alternating between said plurality of cameras, said image reproducing method comprising the steps of:

skipping n frames of said multiple picture signal;

continuously reproducing m frames of said multiple picture signal, wherein n is a positive integer, and m is a positive integer; and

repeating said skipping and continuous reproducing.

**Claim 17 (previously presented):** An image reproducing method for skip reproducing a multiple picture signal obtained by multiplexing picture signals from a plurality of cameras via a frame switcher, said image reproducing method comprising the steps of:

forward skipping n+m frames of said multiple picture signal, then reverse skipping m frames of said multiple picture signal, and then continuous reproducing m frames of said multiple picture signal; and

repeating said skipping, reverse skipping and continuous reproducing, wherein

n is a positive integer, and m is a positive integer.